

Message Text

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12
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

AID-05 IO-10 SR-02 ORM-01 /074 W
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R 020625Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5391
INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMCONSUL SYDNEY
AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 1990

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AEMR, PINT, VS
SUBJECT: EVACUATION OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES--VIEWS OF
DFA OFFICIAL

REF: A) SAIGON 3997; B) STATE 073146

1. EMBOFF DELIVERED SUBSTANCE OF REFTELS APR 2 TO DFA
(DAVID GOSS, ASSISTANT SECRETARY, SOUTH ASIA BRANCH).
GOSS EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR INFO AND NOTED GOA WILL
ANNOUNCE LATER TODAY ALLOCATION OF A\$1.0 MILLION TO UN HIGH
COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES FOR RELIEF IN INDO-CHINA AREA.
HE NOTED THERE ARE SOME DIFFERENCES WITHIN GOA ON HOW FAR
TO GO IN HELPING REFUGEES WITH SOME OFFICIALS EXPRESSING
VIEW THAT THERE IS NO POINT IN MAKING LARGE EFFORT, SINCE
COMMUNISTS LIKELY TO WIN VICTORY IN NEAR FUTURE.

2. GOSS, WHO RECENTLY COMPLETED TOUR OF DUTY AS COUNSELOR
OF AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY IN BANGKOK, DISCUSSED EVOLVING SITUA-
TION IN INDO-CHINA AREA. HE MADE IT CLEAR HE ANTICIPATED
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COMMUNIST CONTROL OF ALL OF INDO-CHINA IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE,

AND PREDICTED FALL OF PHNOM PENH TO KHMER ROUGES WITHIN NEXT TWO WEEKS. HE SAID HE WAS FRANKLY SURPRISED AT RELATIVE SWIFTHNESS OF VIETNAMESE COLLAPSE, AS HE HAD THOUGHT GVN HAD COMPARATIVELY GREATER STAYING POWER. HE SAID HE HAD NEVER ACCEPTED QTE DOMINO THEORY END QTE AS IT APPLIED TO THAILAND, SINCE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THAILAND WOULD NEED SOME 20 YEARS OR SO TO PRESENT SERIOUS THREAT TO GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, HE ANTICIPATED CONSIDERABLE CHANGE IN ORIENTATION OF THAI GOVERNMENT, TOWARDS STANCE OF NEUTRALISM AND ANTICIPATED EARLY REQUEST FROM THAI GOVERNMENT TO U.S. TO RESTRICT USE OF THAI BASES AND EVENTUALLY TO REMOVE THEM.

3. ON LARGER IMPLICATIONS OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN INDOCHINA, HE SAID HE DID NOT THINK THEY NECESSARILY WILL HAVE SUBSTANTIAL IMPACT ON A WORLD-WIDE BASIS, ADDING THAT U.S. COMMITMENTS TO A FEW AREAS (HE SEEMED TO BE IMPLYING NATO AND ANZUS) WOULD BE SEEN, WITH TIME, TO REMAIN VALID AND CREDIBLE. HE THOUGHT THERE WOULD BE DANGER IF AMERICANS ADOPTED ATTITUDE OF QTE TO HELL WITH IT ALL END QTE AS RESULT OF RECENT EVENTS.

4. COMMENT: THIS WAS FIRST CONTACT EMBOFF HAD WITH GOSS SINCE HE ASSUMED HIS DUTIES IN DFA LAST WEEK. FACT HE EXPRESSED HIMSELF SO FRANKLY AND IN SUCH BROAD-RANGING TERMS IS INDICATION OF WAY MANY AUSTRALIANS ARE REACTING TO RECENT EVENTS. EMBASSY WILL EXAMINE THIS SUBJECT MORE THOROUGHLY IN NEXT FEW WEEKS.

HARROP

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